Complete Summary

TITLE

Melanoma: percentage of patients with stage 0 or IA melanoma, without signs or symptoms, for whom no diagnostic imaging studies were ordered.

SOURCE(S)

American Academy of Dermatology, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®, National Committee for Quality Assurance. Melanoma II physician performance measurement set. Chicago (IL): American Medical Association, National Committee for Quality Assurance; 2007 Oct. 23 p. [5 references]

Measure Domain

PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the Measure Validity page.

SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Does not apply to this measure

Brief Abstract

DESCRIPTION

This measure is used to assess the percentage of patients with stage 0 or IA melanoma, without signs or symptoms, for whom no diagnostic imaging studies were ordered.

RATIONALE

There is no valid indication for expensive imaging studies in early stage melanoma in the absence of signs or symptoms. There is a perception that radiologic studies are being administered for grade 0 and grade I melanoma that are clinically unnecessary and create economic burden to the patient and payer. While diagnostic imaging is also inappropriate for patients with higher stages of melanoma as well, this measure is a first step in addressing the over-utilization of diagnostic imaging studies in patients with melanoma.*

*The following clinical recommendation statements are quoted verbatim from the referenced clinical guidelines and represent the evidence base for the measure:

The panel unanimously agreed that no specific search for occult visceral metastases, with either chest x-ray or blood work, is necessary in patients with 0 and IA melanoma. This National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) recommendation is consistent with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) consensus guidelines. Imaging studies such as computed tomography (CT) scan, positron emission tomography (PET), and/or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) may be performed for all patients to evaluate specific signs or symptoms. For patients with IB-II melanomas, a baseline chest x-ray is optional because this test in insensitive for detecting clinically occult distant disease in the lungs. (NCCN)

No investigations are necessary for patients with stage I disease. Stage I and IIA melanoma patients should not be staged by imaging, as the true-positive pick-up rate is low and the false-positive rate is high. Patients at intermediate or high risk of recurrent disease (stage IIB and over) should have the following staging investigations: chest x-ray; liver ultrasound or CT scan with contrast of the chest, abdomen + pelvis; liver function tests/lactate dehyrdogenase; and full blood count. In the absence of effective chemotherapy for melanoma, however, it may be reasonable to omit scanning in individual stage IIB patients. There is no place for a bone scan in staging except where symptoms point to possible bone disease. (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence [NICE])

PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Stage 0 melanoma; stage 1A melanoma; chest x-ray; computed tomography (CT) scan; ultrasound; magnetic resonance imaging (MRI); positron emission tomography (PET); nuclear medicine scans

DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

All patients with stage 0 or IA melanoma (see the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION

Patients with stage 0 or IA melanoma, without signs or symptoms, for whom no diagnostic imaging studies were ordered (see the related "Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

Evidence Supporting the Measure

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY

- A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Unspecified

State of Use of the Measure

STATE OF USE

Current routine use

CURRENT USE

Internal quality improvement

Application of Measure in its Current Use

CARE SETTING

Ambulatory Care
Physician Group Practices/Clinics

PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Physicians

LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Individual Clinicians

TARGET POPULATION AGE

Patients of all ages are included in this measure

TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Unspecified

ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

BURDEN OF ILLNESS

Unspecified

UTILIZATION

Unspecified

COSTS

Unspecified

Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM CARE NEED

Living with Illness

IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness
Patient-centeredness

Data Collection for the Measure

CASE FINDING

Users of care only

DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

All patients with stage 0 or IA melanoma

DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME

Patients associated with provider

DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions
All patients with stage 0 or IA melanoma

Refer to the original measure documentation for administrative codes.

Exclusions

- "Documentation of medical reason(s) for ordering diagnostic imaging studies (e.g., patient has signs or symptoms that justify imaging studies)
- Documentation of system reason(s) for ordering diagnostic imaging studies (e.g., requirement for clinical trial enrollment, ordered by another provider)

RELATIONSHIP OF DENOMINATOR TO NUMERATOR

All cases in the denominator are equally eligible to appear in the numerator

DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Clinical Condition
Encounter

DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window is a single point in time

NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions
Patients with stage 0 or IA melanoma, without signs or symptoms, for whom no diagnostic imaging studies* were ordered

*Diagnostic imaging studies include chest x-ray, computed tomography (CT) scan, ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomography (PET), and nuclear medicine scans.

Refer to the original measure documentation for administrative codes.

Exclusions
None

MEASURE RESULTS UNDER CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR POLICYMAKERS

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW

Fixed time period

DATA SOURCE

Administrative data
Medical record

LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY

Individual Case

PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED

Unspecified

Computation of the Measure

SCORING

Rate

INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a higher score

ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Unspecified

STANDARD OF COMPARISON

Internal time comparison

Evaluation of Measure Properties

EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING

Unspecified

Identifying Information

ORIGINAL TITLE

Measure #4: over utilization of imaging studies in stage 0-IA melanoma.

MEASURE COLLECTION

The Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® Measurement Sets

MEASURE SET NAME

Melanoma Physician Performance Measurement Set

SUBMITTER

American Medical Association on behalf of the American Academy of Dermatology, the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®, and the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

DEVELOPER

American Academy of Dermatology
National Committee for Quality Assurance
Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®

FUNDING SOURCE(S)

Unspecified

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FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES/OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Conflicts, if any, are disclosed in accordance with the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® conflict of interest policy.

INCLUDED IN

Ambulatory Care Quality Alliance

ADAPTATION

Measure was not adapted from another source.

RELEASE DATE

2007 Oct

MEASURE STATUS

This is the current release of the measure.

SOURCE(S)

American Academy of Dermatology, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®, National Committee for Quality Assurance. Melanoma II physician performance measurement set. Chicago (IL): American Medical Association, National Committee for Quality Assurance; 2007 Oct. 23 p. [5 references]

MEASURE AVAILABILITY

The individual measure, "Measure #4: Over Utilization of Imaging Studies in Stage 0-IA Melanoma," is published in the "Melanoma Physician Performance Measurement Set." This document and technical specifications are available in Portable Document Format (PDF) from the American Medical Association (AMA)-convened Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® Web site: www.physicianconsortium.org.

For further information, please contact AMA staff by e-mail at cqi@ama-assn.org.

NQMC STATUS

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on October 2, 2007. The information was verified by the measure developer on November 21, 2007.

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